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Message Text

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44
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /077 W
---------- 038119
R 061400Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8466
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2314

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT, YE
SUBJ: ELECTIONS AND PARLIAMENT FOR YEMEN

1. TWO RELIABLE SOURCES -- AHMAD ABDU SAID AND ABDALLAH AL-ASNAJ -- HAVE TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT QUESTION OF NEW PARLIAMENT FOR YEMEN IS AGAIN UNDER CONSIDERATION.

2. AX-ASNAJ, HOWEVER, SAYS THAT THIS WILL PVXBABLY BE NOMINATED ASSEMBLY.G NONLLECTED AND NEITHER AL-ASNAJ NOR SAID THINKS NEW BODY WILL OR SHOULD HAVE ANY POWER.

3. EMBASSY HAS SEPARATE REPORT THAT AL-HAMDI HIMSELF HAS PROMISED TO HOLD ELECTIONS WITHWF THREE TO FIVEH ONTHYT

4. COMMENT: ELECTIONS AND PARLIAMENT ARE NAGGING ISSUE HERE. ON ONE HAND YEMENIS THINK OF THEMSELVES AS DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE, AND MANY HAVE CRITICIZED THE INCREASING POWER
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OF AL-HAMDI AND HIY CRONY-ISM. ON OTHERR HAND, DEMOCRACY

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IN YEMEN IS REALLY ARAB INDIVIDUALISM AND TRIBAL RIGHTS
OF CONSULTATION AND AUTONOMY. WESTERN INSTITUTIONS LIKE
PARLIAMENT HAVE NO ROOTS OR GREAT UNDERSTANDING HERE.

5. AL-HAMDI'S CAUTION ABOUT MOVING AHEAD ON ELECTIONS
PROBABLY STEMS IN PART FROM HIS PERSONAL UNWILLINGNESS TO
ACCEPT A COUNTERWEIGHT TO HIS OWN POWER, BUT AT ANOTHER
LEVEL HE WORIES THAT A PARLIAMENT WILL REFLECT THE
DIVISIONS WITHIN YEMEN CONCERNING THE RE-ORIENTATION OF
YEMEN AWAY FROM SOVIETS TOWARD SAUDIS AND WEST, AWAY
FROM TRADITIONAL AND TRIBAL ELEMENTS AND TOWARD CENTRAL
GOVERNMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.

6. AL-HAMDI BELIEVES THAT
A PARLIAMENT WHICH ALLOWED LEFTISTS AND RIGHTISTS TO
CRITICIZE OR BLOCK THIS RE-ORIENTATION IS INEVITABLE AT
THIS POINT, AND A NEW BODY SHOULD NOT BE ELECTED UNTIL
THE BENEFITS OF AL-HAMDI'S MOVES ARE MORE APPARENT AND
A NEW CONSENSUS EXISTS. GTHAT WILL TAKE A WHILE. IN
MEANTIME, TO GIVE HIS REGIME NEW LEGAL TRAPPINGS AND
FURTHER EVIDENCE OF POPULAR SUPPORT, AL-HAMDI MAY APPOINT
OR HOLD ELECTIONS FOR A STRICTLY CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY
UNDER HIS COMPLETE CONTROL. END COMMENT.
SCOTES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANA02314
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760261-0573
From: SANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760787/aaaaczad.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTIONS AND PARLIAMENT FOR YEMEN
TAGS: PINT, YE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006